

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 14, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to a letter from Joe H. Tonahill, attorney for Jack Ruby, dated January 9, 1964. Since the letter was also addressed to you, a copy is not enclosed. There is enclosed a copy of my reply to Mr. Tonahill.

For your information, the allegation Mr. Tonahill attributes to the press concerning the possibility that Oswald may have been an FBI informant is absolutely false and no attempt was ever made to develop him as an informant.

Mr. Tonahill's letter also incorrectly indicates that we have conducted investigation for the prosecution and furnished the results to the District Attorney on a daily basis. Although we have made technical examinations of physical evidence submitted by the Dallas Police Department and informed the Dallas Police of the results of such examinations, we have not furnished local authorities with the results of our investigations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "J. E. T. (John E. Tavel)".

Enclosure

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Honorable J. Lee Rankin

"None of this information will be released to the press, radio or television, nor to anyone else outside of this office, and will be used exclusively in the trial of this case for the purposes of cross-examining the defendant should he testify and also cross-examining the character witnesses, and should any of these witnesses wherein you have a statement from them testify, if they vary from the statements made to your Agent, they will be used for the purpose of cross-examining this witness. I hope that this can be arranged as soon as possible since we will have to read and digest these prior to the trial on February 3."

This information has been furnished to Assistant Attorney General Miller.

Please advise us as to the action the Commission plans to take regarding Mr. Wade's request.

Sincerely yours,

